

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BOOK PRESENTATIONS BY AMBASSADOR TO SOFIA AND VELIKO
 TURNOVO UNIVERSITIES

1. ON JUNE 20 AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RAYMOND L. GARTHOFF PRESENTED THIRTY-FIVE WORKS ON AMERICAN LITERATURE TO SOFIA UNIVERSITY "KLIMENT OKHRIDSKI", TWO WEEKS AFTER HE HAD DONATED A SIMILAR SET TO VELIKO TURNOVO UNIVERSITY WHERE AMERICAN FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR ROBERT WEEKS LECTURED ON AMERICAN LITERATURE DURING THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR. THE WORKS WERE RECEIVED ON BEHALF OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY BY RECTOR BLAGOVEST SENDOV. ALSO PRESENT AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY FOR THIS UNIQUE OCCASION WERE: VICE RECTOR PROF. VASIL VERGILOV, DEAN OF WESTERN PHILOLOGY PROF. PAVEL PETKOV, AND CHAIRMAN OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHAIR ALEXANDER SHURBANOV. OTHER AMERICANS PRESENT WERE EMBASSY'S P&C OFFICER JOHN J. KARCH AND HISTORY PROF. MICHAEL PETROVICH OF UNIV OF WISCONSIN WHOM RECENTLY ATTENDED THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BULGARIAN STUDIES, VARNA.

2. AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF REFERRED TO BLOSSOMING U.S.-
BULGARIAN RELATIONS AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO PRESENT
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THESE BOOKS IN FIELD OF AMERICAN LITERATURE TO SOFIA UNIVERSITY. HE MENTIONED THAT IN OCTOBER U.S. WILL HAVE EXHIBIT OF SOME 700 AMERICAN TITLES ON WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS AT ADJACENT NATIONAL LIBRARY "KIRIL I. METODIY", BOOKS WHICH WILL BE LATER DONATED TO THE LIBRARY. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HOPE THESE PUBLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AND USEFUL TO THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF SOFIA

UNIVERSITY AND TO OTHERS AS WELL. RECTOR SENDOV, THANKING AMBASSADOR FOR GIFT, SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE BOOKS WHICH WILL BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO UNIVERSITY'S SPECIALISTS AND STUDENTS.

3. OF THE 35 TITLES SIX WERE IN MULTIPLE COPIES: STEPHEN CRANE'S "RED BADGE OF COURAGE," F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S "THE GREAT GATSBY," NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S "THE SCARLET LETTER," ARTHUR MILLER'S "DEATH OF A SALESMAN," AND JOHN STEINBECK'S "THE GRAPES OF WRATH." THESE WILL BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO STUDENTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE. OTHER AUTHORS INCLUDED FAMILIAR NAMES IN BULGARIA SUCH AS EUGENE O'NEILL, EDWARD ALBEE, JOSEPH HELLER, ERNEST HEMINGWAY, AND J.D. SALINGER, AND SOME LESS WELL KNOWN, SUCH AS RICHARD WRIGHT (NATIVE SON), ELLEN GLASGOW (BARREN GROUND), AND WILLIAM STYRON (LIE DOWN IN DARKNESS).

4. AMBASSADOR'S JUNE 7 VISIT TO VELIKO TURNOVO INCLUDED A STOP AT THE UNIVERSITY "KIRIL I. METODIY" WHERE HE PRESENTED A SIMILAR SET OF BOOKS ON AMERICAN LITERATURE. IN ABSENCE OF RECTOR DIMITUR FILIPOV, PRESENTATION WAS ACCEPTED BY VICE RECTOR PROF ANGEL ASENOV DAVIDOV. ALSO PRESENT WERE VICE RECTOR STEFAN MARKOV, HEAD OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHAIR SONYA DYAKOVA, AND DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IVAN N. PENCHEV.
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OTHER AMERICANS PRESENT WERE MRS. GARTHOFF AND PROF. AND MRS. ROBERT WEEKS. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT VISIT TO UNIVERSITY WHICH IS BOTH OLD AND NEW, AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FROM REPORTS THAT PROF. WEEKS HAD THE HIGHEST OPINION OF BOTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENTS AND FACULTY. HE HOPED THESE AMERICAN WORKS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE UNIVERSITY AND THAT THIS PRESENTATION WAS ONLY FIRST STEP IN NUMEROUS STEPS IN BRINGING OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER.
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